

## CLAIMS

1. A handheld portable electronic communication device, comprising:  
a first housing element;  
a second housing element;  
a first pivoting member coupled to the first housing element, the first pivoting member having a first axis of rotation across an upper portion of the first housing element;  
a second pivoting member coupled to the second housing element and the first pivoting member, the second pivoting member having a second axis of rotation substantially perpendicular to the first axis; and  
the first housing element rotatable about the first axis from a first configuration wherein the first housing element overlays the second housing element to a second configuration wherein the first housing element and the second housing element are angularly displaced about the first axis, and  
the first housing element rotatable relative to the second housing element about the second axis.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the second pivoting member is coupled to a side portion of the second housing element and the second axis is parallel to the side portion of the second housing element.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the first pivoting member and the second pivoting member are coupled together by an elbow.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the second hinge allows the first housing element to rotate relative to the second housing element about the second axis from the first

configuration to a third configuration wherein the first housing element and the second housing element are angularly displaced about the second axis.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the first housing element rotates to either the third configuration or the second configuration from the first configuration.
6. The device of claim 4, wherein the first housing element rotates relative to the second axis from the first configuration to the second configuration or the first housing element rotates relative to the first axis from the first configuration to the third configuration.
7. The device of claim 4, wherein the device automatically configures a first operation mode when the first housing element is rotated to the second configuration relative to the second housing element, and wherein the device automatically configures a second operation mode when the first housing element is rotated to the third configuration relative to the second housing element.
8. The device of claim 7, wherein the device further comprises a display disposed in the first housing element or the second housing element, wherein the display is configured in a portrait orientation when the device is in the first configuration and wherein the display is configured in a landscape orientation when the device is in the second configuration.
9. The device of claim 8, the first pivoting member pivotable only about the first axis, the second pivoting member pivotable only about the second axis.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the second pivoting member is coupled to the first pivoting member at a point between a first end of the first pivoting member and a second end of the first pivoting member.
11. The device of claim 10, wherein the second pivoting member is coupled to the first pivoting member at a mid point between the first end and the second end of the first pivoting member.
12. The device of claim 11, wherein the first housing element rotates about the first pivoting member and the second pivoting member to a fourth configuration wherein the first housing element overlays the second housing element such that the first housing element is rotated substantially 180 degrees from the first configuration.
13. The device of claim 12, wherein the device automatically configures a first operation mode when the first housing element is rotated to the second configuration relative to the second housing element, and  
wherein the device automatically configures a second operation mode when the first housing element is rotated to the fourth configuration relative to the second housing element.
14. The device of claim 12, wherein the device in the first configuration encloses a user interface component in-between the first housing element and the second housing element, and  
wherein the user interface component is not enclosed in-between the first housing element and the second housing element in the fourth configuration.

15. A self configuring multiple element wireless portable electronic communication device, comprising:  
at least a first element and a second element; and  
a joint connecting the first element and the second element, the joint allowing movement in more than one plane of the first element in relation to the second element,  
wherein the joint couples the first electronic element to the second electronic element such that the device configures to at least a portrait configuration and a landscape configuration,  
wherein the first element rotates relative to the second element from a first closed configuration wherein the first element overlays the second element to the portrait configuration, and  
wherein the first element rotates relative to the second element from the first closed position to the landscape configuration, and  
wherein the self configuring multiple element portable electronic device is capable of self configuring an operational mode based on a relative position of the first element with respect to the second element.
16. The device of claim 15, wherein the first element includes a display device capable of being configured as a landscape display device and a portrait display device,  
and  
wherein the second element includes at least one input device having a plurality of input elements, the plurality of input elements capable of being configured as a landscape input device and a portrait input device, and  
wherein the movement configures a display device orientation and an input device orientation.

17. The device of claim 15, wherein the device has at least two operational modes and wherein the device self configures an operational mode based on a position of the first element relative to the second element.
18. The device of claim 17, wherein the display device is selected from the group including a LCD, a CRT, a fluorescent display, a Braille output device, a TFT display, and a touch screen display;  
wherein the display device is configured as a portrait display device when the first electronic element is configured as a portrait display device, and  
wherein the display device is configured as a landscape display device when the second electronic element is configured as a landscape display device.
19. The device of claim 17, wherein the input device is selected from the group including a keyboard, a joystick, a pointing device, a trackball, a touch pad, a rocker switch, a TTY input device, a Braille input device, a camera, a digital handwriting tablet, a pointing device, and a touch screen display,  
wherein the input device is configured as a portrait input device when the second element is configured as a portrait input device,  
wherein the input device is configured as a landscape input device when the second element is configured as a landscape input device.
20. The device of claim 19, wherein the input device orientation is configured to a landscape input device to accommodate at least a full text keyboard, and as a portrait input device to accommodate at least a digital handwriting tablet or a phone keyboard.

21. A handheld portable electronic communication device, comprising:  
a first housing portion;  
a second housing portion; and  
a joint interconnecting the first and second housing portions,  
the joint having a first pivot member coupled to one of the first and second housing portions, the joint having a second pivot member coupled to the other of the first and second housing portions,  
the first pivot member disposed along a first pivot axis and the second pivot member disposed along a second pivot axis perpendicular to the first pivot axis.
22. The device of Claim 21, the first pivot member pivotable only about the first pivot axis, the second pivot member pivotable only about the second pivot axis.
23. The device of Claim 21, the pivot axis of one of the first and second pivot members disposed across an upper portion of one of the housing portions.